

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01686 241349Z

43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /093 W

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R 241233Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3295

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1686

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GY, PFOR

SUBJECT: GUYANA SEEKS MILITARY TRAINING FROM BRITAIN

SUMMARY: BRITISH OFFICIAL SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT BURNHAM HAS SOUGHT MILITARY TRAINING HELP FROM THE BRITISH, BUT DUE TO OVERCOMMITMENT OF TRAINING CAPACITY, LATTER HAVE DECLINED ASSISTANCE. BRITISH SALE OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEM TO GUYANA HAS BEEN CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, AND GUYANESE-BRITISH DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY ABOUT GOG PURCHASE OF LIGHT ARTILLERY. GUYANESE ALSO ARE SHOPPING FOR RADAR SYSTEM. GOG REPORTEDLY HAS SOUGHT MILITARY INSTRUCTORS FROM NIGERIA (IN VAIN) AND WILL SEEK INSTRUCTORS FROM GHANA DURING BURNHAM'S VISIT THERE IN OCTOBER. THESE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN WESTERN AND AFRICAN ASSISTANCE ARE IN KEEPING WITH GUYANA'S NON-ALIGNED POSTURE AND INTENTION NOT TO BECOME DEPENDENT UPON
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01686 241349Z

CUBA. THEY ALSO MAY REFLECT INCREASING CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET

AND CUBAN BEHAVIOR HERE AND BURNHAM'S AWARENESS THAT SOVIETS AND, BY IMPLICATION, THEIR CUBAN SURROGATE, REALLY PREFER CHEDDI JAGAN TO HIM. END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL OF BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION INFORMED US COUNTER-PART HERE THAT GOG RECENTLY REQUESTED TRAINING IN ENGLAND FOR A "SIGNIFICANT NUMBER" OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL SERVICE (GNS) AND GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE (GDF) PERSONNEL. IN MAKING THE REQUEST, THE GOG ADMITTED TO A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL TO SERVE AS INSTRUCTORS FOR THE GNA AND THE PEOPLE'S MILITIA. TRAINING REQUESTED RANGED FROM FIELDS OF HYGIENE, FIRST AID, WATER PURIFICATION TO LEADERSHIP COURSES AT SANDHURST. BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD TO TURN DOWN THE REQUESTS DUE TO PRIOR COMMITMENTS TO OTHER NATIONS FOR TRAINING SLOTS DURING THE COMING YEAR.

2. SAME BRITISH OFFICIAL SAID GDF HAS PURCHASED A BOFORS 20MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FROM THE BRITISH. GDF IS NOW SHOPPING FOR AN APPROPRIATE LOW-LEVEL RADAR SYSTEM FOR EVENTUAL COORDINATED USE WITH THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT CANNONS. "SERIOUS" DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GDF AND BRITISH ARE UNDERWAY CONCERNING PURCHASE OF LIGHT ARTILLERY. SOURCE SAID THAT A PURCHASE IS NOW BUT A MATTER OF TIME.

3. WE HAVE HAD OTHER REPORTS THAT GUYANA IS SEEKING MILITARY TRAINING FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES. SPECIFICALLY, GOG REPORTEDLY APPROACHED THE NIGERIANS ABOUT PROVISION OF NIGERIAN INSTRUCTORS FOR USE IN GUYANA, BUT THE NIGERIANS RESPONDED NEGATIVELY, ALLEGING THAT THEY NEEDED ALL THEIR INSTRUCTORS FOR DOMESTIC TRAINING. ACTING CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS TOLD ME THAT, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE, BURNHAM WILL SEEK MILITARY INSTRUCTORS FROM GHANA DURING VISIT TO ACCRA IN OCTOBER TO RECEIVE AN HONORARY DEGREE.

4. COMMENT: EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MILITARY TRAINING AND MATERIALS FROM WESTERN AND AFRICAN SOURCES AFFIRMS GOG'S PUBLICLY STATED POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT, AND TENDS TO CONFIRM GUYANESE OFFICIAL'S PRIVATE AND INFORMAL ASSURANCES TO US THAT GUYANA HAS NO INTENTION OF ALLYING ITSELF WITH OR BECOMING OVERLY DEPENDENT UPON CUBA OR OTHER COMMUNIST STATES FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THESE EFFORTS MAY ALSO DERIVE FROM CONCERNS THAT BURNHAM HAS OVER CUBAN AND SOVIET BEHAVIOR (SEE GEORGETOWN 1568). EMBASSY SOURCE WITH GOOD LINKS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GEORGE 01686 241349Z

GOG LEADERSHIP, DURING DISCUSSION WITH ME CONCERNING GUYANESE-CUBAN RELATIONS AND THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN GUYANA, SAID THAT THE BEST GUARANTEE US COULD HAVE AGAINST BURNHAM AGREEING TO USE ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CUBAN MILITARY MEN FOR TRAINING OF GDF OR GNS PERSONNEL IN GUYANA WAS BURNHAM'S FEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION, USING THE CUBANS, MIGHT DECIDE TO REPLACE HIM WITH CHEDDI JAGAN. FOR THIS REASON, SOURCE SAID, BURNHAM WOULD BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO ALLOW ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CUBAN MILITARY PER-

SONNEL IN GUYANA
BLACKEN

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